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CROSBRYANA

Quarterly Journal of the Bing Club



THE BRITISH BING CLUB

(associated with the American "Club Crosby".)

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Advertisements and copy may be sent, at any time, to any of the above club officers. Adverts are free and copy should be limited to three pages of "Crosbyana".

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CROSBYANA

Journal of the
British Bing Club.



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Editorial

Dear Bingolists,

Hope you like the snapshot of Bing 'swinging it' at St. Andrews. Member Cab Smith was the donor. He secured a strip of the BBC Television newsreel negative and your snapshot has been enlarged to more than twenty times it's actual size. Cab sent us other negatives, also a piece of the actual printed film with sound. It is suitable for projection by epidiascope or magic lantern and can be borrowed from yours truly at any time. The afore mentioned negs. can also be had from me for free.

You've responded magnificently with good copy for the journal, and I know you'll understand that it cannot be printed all in one issue. We must have variety, so look out for your entry in forthcoming "Crosbyanas".

At this point I think I ought to tell you more about the new honorary members who've graciously accepted our invitation.

I'm quite safe in saying we couldn't hope for nicer people to join us. No wonder they are Crosby admirers! The three celebrities need no word from me to introduce them to you; they are all at the top of their profession. They have all written special letters of acceptance to you and I've real pleasure in inserting them in this column.

Miss MARGARET LOCKWOOD writes: -

"Thankyou very much for your kind invitation. It is very good of you to invite me to become an honorary member of your club, and I should be most happy to accept. My thanks and best wishes to you and the readers of "Crosbyana".

Mr. JOHN MILLS writes: -

"Thankyou very much indeed for inviting me to become an honorary member of The British Bing Club. I accept with great pleasure. My best wishes to you for the success of the club, and to the readers of "Crosbyana".

Mr. GODFREY WINN writes: -

"I shall be delighted to become an honorary member of The British Bing Club. I played several of his records during my

'Housewives Choice' programme a short time ago and I hope to play many more when I return to this programme in October".

The special Christmas edition of the journal will be issued on December 1st. The usual monthly News Letters will appear meanwhile.

B i n g c e r e l y,

Art

WHAT'S NEW

BING'S LATEST FILM -

According to Larry C., "Mr. Music" will be premiered in the West End 'round about Christmas'. We are in for a feast of song - and dance, from Bing this time. Johnny Burke and Jimmy Van Heusen compose the nine new songs. These two Crosby stalwarts turn out a song every ten days, year in and year out and attack the matter of songwriting in a bona fide business office.

We have just mentioned dancing in Bing's new musical and besides Mr. and Mrs. GOWER CHAMPION, the notable dancers, we shall see the Groaner doing it the hard way with the two dancing stars a-tapping out atop a piano. GOWER CHAMPION, by the way, produced all the nine big production scenes for this new Paramount movie.

Bing is also called to show keyboard virtuosity and one of America's top radio and recording pianists, by name, BUDDY COLE taught der Bingle proper piano stylings. The teacher on the pupil: "Bing was an unusually apt pupil."

"Mr. Music" features two newcomers to Hollywood, and one who we don't see very much of these post war days. NANCY OLSON and PAUL LEES are the finds. The former hopes to join her husband, who is appearing on the great White Way in New York, between films. Since his return from war service we've only seen ROBERT STACK on a few occasions. Bob's athletic prowess stood him in good stead for his "Mr. Music" role. In one sequence we shall see him chin himself from a high bar several times using only one arm. He is an expert swimmer, golfer and one of the USA's champion skeet shots. (Sorry! We don't know what that is-)

We shall expect the 'all-out' Crosby in this flick. He always shows to advantage when surrounded by lots and lots of other top character actors. The more scene stealers, the better Crosbyana!

Judging by the story of "Mr. Music" it's the same old Bing. He is an eccentric composer of hit musical shows and lives in a uniquely

furnished apartment whose attractions include an old cigar store Indian statue on which Bing hangs his hat. This sounds like the Bing we know and love.

DOROTHY KIRSTEN, famed opera star of the New York Met. also plays a leading part with Bing. She has already appeared with the Groaner and Frank Sinatra on their respective radio shows, and has proved her versatility by singing popular songs like a crooner and not in traditional operatic style. Sometime ago, on Bingo's programme she joined that gent in a burlesque 'horse opera'. Bing started proceedings with a new version of an old favourite by JOHNNY MERCER. Remember the Groaner crooning "I'm an old cowhand" in 'Rhythm on the River' well, his new lyrics go, "I'm an old crooner-r from around Spokane, and when I sing, it turns to rain....." Let's have a Crosby cloudburst!!!

C O W P U N C H E R C R O S B Y -

As soon as Paramount decided to team Bing with WILLIAM BOYD in a western with music, the Groaner's studio pals had a new name-plate painted on his runabout cycle. It reads, "Creepalong Crosby" and we hope it implies that Bing is a careful cyclist, also that they keep Mr. ROBERT HOPE of the studio roads, for no one could miss that big boy.

T H E I D E A L H U S B A N D -

Arthur Murray's 3130 unmarried dancing instructresses have voted BING CROSBY "the Ideal American Man" with runners up KIRK DOUGLAS and GREGORY PECK, in a recent poll. And some reporters still insist he's slipping!

Bing, who saw MARY MARTIN in her Broadway hit, "South Pacific" when he was out East a while back, was most enthusiastic about the show and Miss Martin's performance in particular. He said, "They should keep repeating that song, 'There's Nothing Like A Dame' " - meaning Martin, of course. If the show comes to London it will bring out those swell recordings Bing has made of the hit tunes, of which there are many.

G E N T L E M A N S G E N T L E M A N -

In Skinosse's latest laugh hit, "Fancy Pants", we find some remote actor named 'Mr. Robert Hope' billed as star. He will be remembered for small parts he has played in some of Bing's films. What next? - Harry Lillis Crosby, Esquire. We suppose Paramount had to console Bob in some way after calling his film "Fancy Pants".



Starting a BING COLLECTION

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by COLIN PUGH.

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With the advent of the club's BING CROSBY DISCOGRAPHY, we offer this article to the many young would be collectors of the Groaner's waxings.

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Working with the Discography as your constant guide and reference, you are no longer in doubt as to what recordings have been made available by 'The Groaner', and can watch the steady growth of your collection. This applies especially to anyone aiming at a complete collection. For this purpose you may suppose that a catalogue giving a list of Bing's recordings would suffice, but in that you would be quite mistaken, as a study of the Discography will show. Until recent times collectors did not have this advantage, but had (by years of patience) delved into old catalogues and lists, searched junk shops for old records, and, by corresponding with other collectors at home and abroad, exchanged and pooled all information. Finally, a wealth of record information was compiled and presented in the form of a discography.

Assuming you have the means of playing your records as obtained, and armed with your Discography, you are now ready to embark on one of the most fascinating hobbies one could desire - collecting Bing. Just which records you may decide to commence with, and the number of those you purchase from our current catalogues, is purely a matter of taste and pocket, so as a guide to a good foundation for a Crosby library, I cannot do better than list a number of records which are truly typical of the various types of music recorded by this extremely versatile artist. In this portrayal I shall only give records which have not been deleted, which means they are still available either from the dealers shelves or against your order from any good dealer.

The title that should obviously head the list, and may be classed sentimental, is Bing's signature tune, "Where the Blue of the Night". He has made three recordings of this song over the years, but only two are available at the present time. Of these two I suggest the ever popular Brunswick 02315. As is rarely done today, he sings the verse of this song and we get a good spell of the original Bing whistle. A very good example of his appealing voice of nearly twenty years ago. This title is backed by the fine old tune, "Dancing in the Dark". Here again we can hear the verse of this entrancing melody which is now enjoying a revival coinciding with the release of the new film of the same title.

Of those titles that may be obtained on the Columbia label, I can do no other than give that record company's best seller,

"Temptation", on DB 2056. The listening value of this recording is far superior to that which may be obtained on Brunswick of the same title, but of a more recent vintage. Bing's voice is clear and powerful without being forced. His phrasing is beautiful. Just listen to him sing the words, '...and I am yours'. One word describes this famous recording - 'thrilling'. The backing, which is "Thanks", is equally spirited and the coupling provides a record really worthy of a place of honour in a library.

You may like to add to the variety in starting your collection by obtaining a twelve inch disc and at the same time, add a Blues number as a further type available by Bing. You do not even have to be a Crosby fan to relish the "St. Louis Blues" on Columbia DX 308. It is a splendid concert version by Duke Ellington with Bing having a long solo spell finishing with a short run of scat. Mr. C. does not appear on the reverse, which is "Creole Love Call" but the 'Duke' does credit to this old tune with another terrific concert arrangement.

Let's pass on to something a little more modern. How about a copy of a famous traditional air of the American West, one like "Home on the Range". Although the Groaner gave us an earlier rendition of this song, I propose you get his recording of it on Brunswick 02807. In this he is accompanied by Victor Young and his concert orchestra and does a very pleasing and restful job of it. Listen to the graceful ease of his higher notes on 'leisurely' (pronounced lee-surely) and 'maid'. As a backing we have "Down by the old Mill Stream" accompanied by John Scott Trotter. Singing with Bing are The Fourtome and we're treated to two tempos, slow and swing. Quite an interesting recording but, I think Bing could make a better job to-day of those low notes on which he finishes ('old mill stream').

Bing with his easy styling is always at his best when singing an Hawaiian number and for a perfect example I recommend 1937's most popular song, and a real classic in it's field, "Sweet Leilani" on Brunswick 02412. 'Lani' means Heaven and 'Leilani' is interpreted as flower of Heaven or, as the lyrics go 'Heavenly Flower'. Bing originally did this song in his picture for Paramount, "Waikiki Wedding". The real beauty of the recording is that we are allowed a proper appreciation of Bing's resonant solo by the contrasting tones of the Hawaiian type voice which immediately precedes him in the opening chorus. Listen, particularly to his handling of the words, 'your'; 'you're mine'; the second voicing of 'Heavenly Flower' and the break on 'completed'. "The One Rose (that's left in my heart)" supports with accompaniment by Victor Young and his orchestra. This lovely melody is sung with much depth and feeling at a nice slow tempo.

Negro Spirituals also play a part in Bing's repertoire and I'm sure I can safely say, without fear of contradiction, that the

traditional "Swang Low, Sweet Chariot" on Brunswick 02663, is the finest example in this particular idiom. Bing is backed by The Paul Taylor Choristers. Note how he hums the word 'home', a splendid of how he lives the part he sings and creates the all important right atmosphere. The same accompaniment figure on the other side, "Darling Nellie Gray", an oldie which Bing again changes key about half way through as he does on 'Mill Stream' and projects the notes solidly at both ends of the register.

As opposed to the Negro Spirituals we have the minstrel type and Stephen Foster's work in this field is unparalleled. Bing has recorded all of this composers songs. I select "Swanee River" on Brunswick 01993 for an outstanding performance. Starting off with the Crinoline Choir we have Bing coming in clear, full steady as the well known rock. Beautifully phrased, the words are cited in that voice which is Bing all the way. Sentiment is pronounced in a manly way showing that deep thought can become of fine singing. Pay particular attention to Bing's wording of 'sad' and 'at home'. This superb recording never fails to leave me with eyes that are moist. The reverse offers another song featured by Bing in "Mississippi" called, "Easy To Remember". Composed by Rodgers and Hart, this is a worthy supporter, making a good all round disc.

Cowboy songs have always figured on the Groaner's platters in quite large numbers and an excellent example of this is "Take me back to my ~~Saddles~~ Saddles" (Brunswick 02923), although, I must confess it's backing of "Mexicali Rose" is largely responsible for my choice. The first side is sung with a nice slow, easy swinging style, with just sufficient of that coarseness of that 'coarseness' demanded by a Western song. "Mexicali Rose" happens to be a favourite of mine if that is any criterion and contrary to the usual Brunswick standard, the recording quality of this side is brilliant and minus flaws. Bing's voice and the orchestra of John Scott Trotter seem to stand clear off the wax.

There is a noticeable absence of any fancy trimmings as Bing sings it straight, in clear, full and nicely rounded tones and is awarded splendid support from John Scott. The 'B's' in the words '...big brown eyes' are projected to 'plop' out resulting in a most pleasing effect. Same applies to 'crying' and Bing holds on to this word giving it full, realistic meaning.

Many are the good ballads that Bing has given us and when composed by Victor Herbert, the combination proves noteworthy. Herbert's 'Dream Melody' or "Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life" is a gem (Brunswick 02761) - a perfect song with perfect singing! Turning to the other side we get Bing with Victor Young and his orchestra joining for another Herbert melody, "Sweethearts". The deliverance is well up to the standard of the other side making an ideal coupling.

A tune exemplifying Bing's bright, breezy, happy-go-lucky and

carefree manner is "Swinging on a Star" on Brunswick 03534. Bing is always in a playful mood when amongst children, as he was when he sang this in his greatest film, "Going My Way". This film gave it's title to the song we find on the reverse side of this record, which, although by the same composers and same orchestra (John Scott Trotter), is of a more serious vein which can be called near religious, and is in fact, in keeping with the film.

This brings us to yet another section of our Groaner's wide field of operations --- carols. As the most popular carol and one of Bing's most popular recordings I recommend ~~xxxxx~~ 02054. His rendering of this fine old carol composed 132 years ago, with the appropriate support of a choir, provides us with a most soothing and fitting interpretation sung with sincerity which is characteristic of Crosby style. All royalties from the sale of this record are donated to charity. "Adeste Fideles" is on the reverse (perhaps you know it better as 'O Come all ye Faithful'), also with the same choir. This is sung in both Latin and English and the record makes a splendid contribution to a solid foundation for a Bing collection.

One type of music, which requires crooning more than any other is a lullaby. It is here that Bing comes into his own, and I could cite many examples by him, but none excel the Cradle Song by Brahms, also known as Brahms' "Lullaby", which is presented on Brunswick 03874. John Scott Trotter accompanies Bing and we get a violin solo by Sam Freed. Schubert's renowned "Ave Maria" provides an excellent backing with Victor Young and his orchestra. I like Bing in this class of music and here we have a coupling demonstrating his adaptability to music of the more serious type, and on which he gives an excellent performance.

Well, here we have a dozen records briefly illustrating the many moods of music on which a Bing library may be founded, and I am convinced that these will give you just that insight and taste of the good things in store for you, and I hope you will not hesitate in joining our ranks and so become an ardent and serious collector.

COLIN PUGH.

N.B.- If you have any query on the above subject Mr. Pugh is willing to try and answer it. He regrets he is unable to give a postal reply but, will deal with all questions in these pages. His address is:- 42 Dudmore road, Swindon, Wiltshire.

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IN OUR CHRISTMAS ISSUE Colin Pugh will present an article on maintaining a first class filing system as applied to records and other hints on keeping a library of Crosby records. If you have any hints, suggestions please forward them to him.

I DON'T LIKE CROSBY

s a y s

ROYSTON DURSLEY.

JUST four ordinary words head this page; yet, to the thousands of dotting Bing Crosby fans these words spell sacrilege. "Why in Heaven I just can't imagine! It can't be his acting, nor can it be his singing as he isn't capable of either, but, somehow or other his films are box office with a capital B and his records have sold like hot cakes for years although the latter aren't worth the wax they are made on. He's not content to do about half a dozen hit songs a year like top rate artists of the Sinatra, Monroe, Como class; oh no! anything will do.

It may have done in your hey-day Mr. Crosby but, brother, you've passed that way back. The same applies to your films. You packed them in with the "Road" series, they cried with enjoyment at "Going My Way", "The Bells of St. Mary's" but, lately you've slipped. The younger generation want something for their money, not a middle aged, balding man who, the studio writers think, is still capable of making love to a girl old enough to be his daughter. Now you fans! -don't give me the line that the Great Man has to act (act did I say? I apologise) appear in the type of film his contract calls for. Other stars kick against the traces, why doesn't he?

If he really thought anything of his fans he should make a few personal appearances like his fellow crooners do, but not as far as Crosby is concerned twelve shows a week at the London Palladium is unthinkable. Commitments in the States won't permit, you say? With the money he's raked in from mugs these past years he can be independent of any commitments.

I suggest you retire before it's too late, and who knows, perhaps in ten years or so we shall be having "The Crosby Story" and "Bing Sings Again"!!!

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Mr. Dursley lives at The Central Hotel, Railway Approach, Worthing, Sussex. Please direct your letters and missiles there. W

THE BING CLUB REPLIES

ON THE PRECEDING PAGE WE'VE PRINTED A LETTER FROM ROYSTON DURSLEY, THE MAN WHO DOESN'T LIKE THE GROANER. On this, and the next page we are giving a reply, hoping you will follow suit.

Royston's letter is, by no means, intended to be a scoop; we just thought we ought to let you hear his side of what he thinks to be an argument. Mr. Dursley has written to the press about Bing Crosby on numerous occasions. Les spoke to Art about his criticisms and they decided to offer space to him in your mag.

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Co-President Miss Jean Rainey starts the ball rolling with:-

"So, Mr. Dursley, you don't like Bing Crosby; that is your loss. A few of your remarks need a little adjusting. Bing does, we know, out record his colleagues. Could it be if a person goes to a record dealer asking for the best recording of a popular song, the dealer promptly hands over Bing's version (if there is one) knowing it will please the vast majority of buyers. I suggest Messrs. Sinatra, Como, Monroe and co. have a sneaking suspicion of this and so save their breath.

Bing has never given a bad performance in a film. Lately, it is true, he has been handicapped by bad material (with the exception of "Riding High") I defy, even you, Mr. Dursley to read through a script and forecast the public's reaction.

It's nice of Bing's rivals to make personal appearances for the sole benefit of their fans. They aren't influenced by the reward they get. Bing has done his share of personals and when his fellow crooners reach his great age (if they last that long) they won't be too keen either.

What's that? Crosby can't act? Well, you've just finished saying Bing is selfish, money grabbing and inconsiderate. His parts in films are just the opposite so, that makes him a pretty good actor.

I hope you aren't too lonely, Mr. Dursley."

Club Representative Mr. Colin Pugh says:-

"I think you do, Mr. Dursley.

The inmates of an asylum regard all others as mad. That is well known. Your short article forcibly reminded me of this when you confessed to the thousands of Bing fans, the fact that Crosby's records sell like hot cakes, his films being Box Office with a capital 'B', but you can't think why!!

I know thousands of folks prefer the classical side of music. I don't because I don't like it, but I do know why the others do. I've made it my business to find out, and appreciate their tastes.

Whether it is bad phraseology or or ignorance I know not, but Bing is not a 'balding' man but a 'bald' one, although his fans and decent people refrain from mentioning a person's physical misfortunes in a derisive manner of speech.

Bing can't sing? - Bing can't act? - You are not saying much for the tastes of your fellow men. I should say, my dear Royston, that you are confounded by your own arguments. However, I don't want to scare you off but, would rather convert you to way most people think and welcome you to our fold. You'll find all of our members willing to help you appreciate that which you are, at the moment, apparently unable to understand. I think you do like Crosby because you are too emphatic in your denial of his appeal. People who don't care for his type of entertainment rarely bother to listen, see or talk about it. So come along now, own up and join up. We shan't laugh!"

Mrs. Dorothy Hardiman, club secretary replies as follows:-

"On reading your letter, Mr. Dursley, I conclude you know very little about Bing Crosby. There's no doubt that Bing would admit to everything you've said about him, for, above all he is just another human being (they're so scarce these days) He doesn't play the big star, never publicises his gifts to charity to gain fans, never exercises his tremendous popularity to get you to vote for some party he likes (like most American stars do) and he's never talked anyone down. These qualities are part of Bing and without his singing and acting are so unusual in the world of celebrities that they alone would be good enough reason for his popularity.

I've written to Bing many times and have yet to write the letter that will not be acknowledged in a friendly, courteous way.

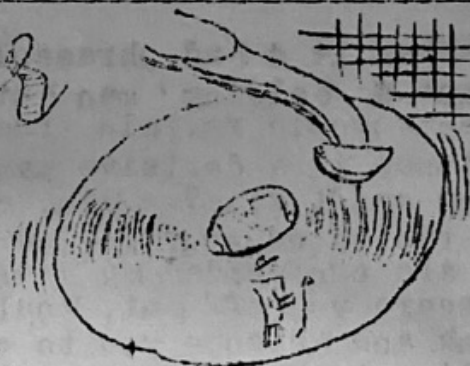
Maybe he won't do twelve shows a week at the Palladium but will he refuse to appear for charity like he did recently in London? Did he refuse to sing a song at every station down the line for the crowds when he came over here during the war? No, Mr. Dursley, No!! It may interest you to know that he once remarked that, to appear at a big theatre for a fabulous fee, would be taking money under false pretences.

Crosby is not a Como or a Sinatra, Royston; he is not limited to a few types of songs. For that reason and the fact that the public prefer his versions of every kind of song, he makes more records. You do admit that Bing did "have his hayday" then! I wonder if you can explain why the people ask for his records which have been made in recent years. If you cannot, I'll endeavour to enlighten you by stating point blank that his range is as good as ever, his versatility is even more pronounced.

Many actors can imitate a Shakespearean character, but how many can invent the perfect character - and live it? I know one who does just that, but you say you don't like him. You can always reform. Why don't you, Mr. Royston Dursley???

the groaner IN THE GROOVE

BY LESLIE GAYLOR.



LATELY I've been engaging in much correspondence with MR. G. A. Jackson, of Columbia Graphophone Company about those early gems whose rights to release his company has. You all know to which songs I refer and how great they are in listening value. There's a full list of them in the club's discography. I have pointed out repeatedly since the Columbia people decided to delete some of these classics that something should be done to re-issue these old masterpieces. The company, by the way, has told me that the masters are in bad condition and will need much repair. Mr. Jackson is our champion and you can rest assured he will help us all he can for we must have those rare jewels by Bing back in the catalogues. Many of our younger listeners to Mr. C. have never heard "After Sundown", "Black Moonlight", "Cabin In The Cotton" and the others he made in this period. To hear the young tenor voice of Bing is to understand how he rocketted to the top where he still remains. Another thing worth remembering is the wonderful melodies of the thirties which are sung by Bing on Columbia records. That we still remember them is just proof of how good they were and, of course, of der Bingle's unparalleled interpretation. If you want these records and if you want your friends to thrill to the old Groaner younger, exuberant chantings just sign the enclosed postcard, stick on a twopenny stamp and drop it in the letter box at the local P.O. When you've done that, we can get something done in the reinstating of above mentioned wonder waxings.

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RECORD REVIEWS.

The number of Bing Crosby records issued this year has been quite small up to now which means that Decca's Brunswick Division is again accumulating more Crosby masters however we must give them credit for their excellent choice. Everything they've released has been taken from their shelves marked "Bing at his best"

Besides agitating the Columbia moguls I've been on to Decca too. This keeping back of good material is not quite fair to us. All we can do now is wait and see what the next few months bring. They may decide to launch another special batch of older recordings, or still better, increase the monthly 'quota'. So far we've had only fourteen discs in these past eight months. Judging by Bing's policy of about five songs a session you can guess we have been denied numerous recordings.

Now for the record reviews proper. At this point I must record the valuable assistance supplied by Mr. Hugh Mendl, of Decca. He has kindly supplied the somewhat elusive information of recording dates in express time.

"ASK ME NO QUESTIONS"

Stellar rating: - XXXXX

Matrix no. L5391

Recorded on 15/ 2/50.

"LOCK, STOCK AND BARREL"

XXXXX

Matrix no. L5390

Recorded on 15/ 2/50.

BRUNSWICK 04489

These two songs find Bing and the Andrews Sisters together again, and a very welcome disc it is too.

Vic Schoen gives commendable orchestral accompaniment which helps to make the recordings pleasant listening. If Bing and the Sisters give us more like this in the future we shall be certain to have a good time.

As regards Bing alone, he is in great form and his solo parts are given in that lovely slow drawl which has earned him the nickname of 'Gravel Throat'.

Both tunes have a well meaning lyric and the songs are well put over; 'Ask Me No Questions' is repeated often and Bing satays in to the end of the other song, finishing on '... barrel of joy'.

"YOU'RE WONDERFUL"

Stellar rating: - XXXXX

Matrix no. L5003

Recorded on 10/ 5/49.

"IT'S MORE FUN THAN A PICNIC"

XXXXX

Matrix no. L5056

Recorded on 23/ 6/49.

BRUNSWICK 04497

Here, again, are two more fine recordings. The former, I think? will appeal to everyone.

The first side presents support by a small combination, which

is indeed a novelty in itself and the chorus is that of Jeff Alexander.

Bing thinks that being in love is more fun than a picnic and rightly so. Oliver King, critic of "The Gramophone", gave it as one of the best recordings of June. It is, indeed, very tune-full and I love the way he sings the lyrics, 'it's all peaches and rainbows'.

"You're Wonderful" presents Bing entirely alone to do the singing with Victor Young whose orchestra gives full backing making this side most enjoyable also. The string section is well to the fore, they follow Bing's phrasings projecting the melodic beauty of the song. Other than a few shaky vibrato voicings, Bing sings well. Both these sides are good examples of Crosby, in fact, the best for some time.

I C H A B O D

Stellar rating: - XXXX

(The Legend of Sleepy Hollow)

FOUR SIDES. Auto-couplings.

Matrix nos. L5052-3-4-5.

Recorded on 23/6/40.

BRUNSWICK A04508-9.

The story or fairy tale of Ichabod Crane is superbly done. Bing as narrator, does a marvellous job, showing he is a man of many voices. In my own opinion Bing easily surpasses his performance as given in the film, although he only gives a chorus of the four songs. If you've seen the Walt Disney film of this, then you will follow the records better. Although Bing sings little, he does so in his best voice and the three songs, 'Ichabod Crane', 'The Headless Horseman' and 'Katrina' are much to my liking.

Full marks to Bing, Victor Young and his orchestra and to USA's recording engineers at Decca.

I note that we have now two story recordings from Brunswick, both successful, so why not "The man Without a Country" and "The Happy Prince". Are you listening, British Decca?

"BLUEBIRD SINGING IN MY HEART" Stellar rating: - XXXX

Matrix no. L4797

Recorded on 31/12/47

"IF I LOVED YOU"

XX

Matrix no. L4735

Recorded on 24/12/47 1950.

BRUNSWICK 04527

/continued overleaf.

'Bluebird' is a tune and extremely enjoyable song. It's one of those ditties which Bing always scores - to the delight of every one. He lets you know how happy he feels and seemingly the blue birds are festooning in his heart. Can't fail to please everyone. The label on my disc credits Vic Young and his orchestra; after a study of matrix numbers and recording dates I opine that the accompanying orchestra is that of our old friend, John Scott Trotter.

"If I Loved You" is supposed to rate as the hit tune from the Rodgers-Hammerstein stage musical, "Carousel". It is not up to the standard of "Oklahoma's" hit parade, or as good as "Some Enchanted Evening" ("South Pacific") also from the pen of Rodgers and Hammerstein. I am not really thrilled with Bing's version of this song, however my colleague, Art is most enthusiastic about it. (thankyou, Les.)

I doubt if I'll wear this recording much; the reasons being that the Groaner doesn't sound at all satisfied with John Scott's accompaniment which sounds very untune - where are those strings we've heard? and the tune is not outstanding in any way. The lyrics are okay but there is a lack of melody; Bing is given no chance to croon. Some of you will be pleased with it, but I must say I am not impressed.

" K A T R I N A "

Stellar rating:- XXXX

Matrix no. L4737

Recorded on 24/12/47.

"HOME COOKIN'"

XXXX

Matrix no. W76144

Recorded on 12/4/50

BRUNSWICK 04534.

The first title is from Walt Disney's "Ichabod and Mr. Toad", & is a full three minute solo very nicely done. A vocal group, The Rhythmairs, and Mr. J.S. Trotter's orchestra aid Bing. It's from the same session as "If I Loved You" but, is much better Bing, although I have a preference for his version on part two of the story discs already reviewed. This is shorter but, I think, much better.

John Scott gives a fair accompaniment, with occasional superb passages. "Katrina" is my piece of cake and I don't think I'd be greedy to ask for "Headless Horseman" and "Ichabod Crane" in full solo form.

Disney's film is now on general release; it was made last year, but Bing's full solo of "Katrina" was done way back in '47, when he did those other 400 sides in an effort to beat the Petrillo ban.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20.)

Crosbytalk

CONDUCTED BY JEAN & ART.

AS YOU KNOW, in the last journal we asked for your opinions, suggestions and criticisms and we are pleased to acknowledge all the letters we've had the pleasure to read. Some of your suggestions were really fine; if you sent a suggestion to better the club journal, it can be seen that we have kept our word. All we can say is, "Keep 'em coming" and, who knows we may have a club magazine which will be acknowledged as the best.

The only disappointing factor from our point of view is the reproduction of "Crosbyana". Our duplicator gives far below the best results but, rest assured, we shall try our best and we hope to purchase a much better model. During the last few months Art has looked at quite a number of duplicators, but with the extra burden of purchase tax the prices are much too high - the cheapest one being £21.18.0. If any of you Bingologists come up on the football pools you might think of us!!

To revert to the Summer magazine? your letters were nearly all full of praise and we are more than rewarded for our efforts when we get letters like those which follow:-

Mr. STAN RICHARDSON, of LIVERPOOL writes:- "...as for the journal; well, it was to be found, quite frankly, beyond my desires. One must read it over and over again in order to digest everything. Every item was perfect and after the first plunge I'm sure it will become bigger and better in every respect. I must thank Les Gaylor; his knowledge of Crosby discs is a mine of gold."

Mr. GEOFFREY BROOMHEAD writes:- "I offer my congratulations to all concerned with the preparation of "Crosbyana". I can readily understand the tremendous amount of work involved producing and distributing the journal. I sat down and read the mag. from cover to cover."

CAB SMITH, of COOKHAM-on-THAMES writes:- "I must say how well you have organised the club - the lowdown on the Groaner in "Crosbyana" is great!"

These letters were chosen at random; we're sorry we haven't the space to record all your individual words of encouragement and we can only thank you again.

Member Ted Laker came up with a good idea a week or two ago. He would like us to get hold of some neckties with a facsimile of der Bingle on the mainfront in Blue and Yellow-Gold material. We didn't wish to leave out our female members, so we must consider appropriate headsquares for them. These, of course, would be dearer than the men's ties. We have not yet found a manufacturer to execute the commission, so in the meanwhile we would like to know what you think about this proposal.

On to further business. The Whiteman or Rhythm Boys era gen literature will be printed within the Christmas journal free of charge. We'll try and make it detachable from the rest of the Christmas issue so that our discologists may retain it separately.

On the following page we have featured our first competition and hope you'll participate if you are of an artistic nature. The competition page will be a regular addition to "Crosbyana" and we intend to vary the competition fare as much as possible to give every member a chance.

As not a single member has kicked against our increased dues we shall press on and make "Crosbyana" a bi-monthly as from 1st of February next year. The membership fee increase of 2/6 (making it 8/6) will be effective from December 31st, 1950 and will also bring more candid snapshots of Bing - among other things! We remind you that, if you are already a club member, the new fee will not affect you until you rejoin and you'll get full benefits right up to the time when your present membership period expires.

As we sign off, we warn all members that the GPO will increase the postage rate of the ordinary mail service to all countries outside the British Commonwealth and THE UNITED STATES. The increase is from 3d. to 4d. with an additional 2½d. for each extra ounce. As we have pointed out, the charge to the States is still 3d. for the first ounce and, therefore remains the same.

B i n g c e r a l y ,

JEAN and ART.

DISCOGRAPHY - AMENDMENTS (CONTINUATION 2 NOV 1974)

The following recording dates are now given:-

01316 Sweet Georgia Brown	23/4/32
01463 My Honey's Lovin' Arms	11/2/33
01463 and	
02144 Some Of These Days	6/7/32
02312 Just One More Chance	4/5/31
02453 Never In A Million Years	28/2/37
02646 Now It Can Be Told	25/5/38
02473 Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?	25/10/32
02807 Home On The Range	14/ 6/39
02808 To You Sweetheart (Aloha)	13/ 6/39
02978 The Singing Hills	25/ 2/40
do. Devil May Care	25/ 2/40
03801 As Long As I'm Dreaming	14/11/46
03589 A Friend Of Yours	13/ 7/44
03657 Lily Of Laguna	13/ 3/42
do. Wait Till The Sun Shines, Nellie	13/ 3/42
03690 Jingle Bells	29/ 9/43
do. Santa Claus Is Coming To Town	29/ 9/43
03875 When Day Is Done	30/12/40
03039 The Sweetest Story Ever Told	4/12/45
do. Mighty Lak A Rose	4/12/45
04090 If You Stub Your Toe On The Moon	30/12/47
04134 Let Me Call You Sweetheart	17/ 7/44
04292 Let's Take The Long Way Home	4/12/44
04200 The One I Love	14/11/46
04425 Eileen	6/11/49
do. How Can You Buy Killarney ?	6/11/49
04482 Sunshine Cake	10/ 5/49
04497 You're Wonderful	10/ 5/49
04497 It's More Fun Than A Picnic	23/ 6/49

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Brunswick 02646 title, "When You Dream About Hawaii" matrix no. should read DLA908.

Brunswick records, 03029, 02054x, 03410, 03411 and 05390 (Conchita Lopez side only), should be amended to bear matrix prefix 'DLA' although the wax centre has 'L'.

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Here are details of FOUR twelve inch Brunswicks omitted from our discography in error:-

01007 Lawd You Made The Night Too Long BX11701 (Reverse:-non Bing D Accompaniment:-Don Redman orch., Boswell Sisters.
 0134 Selection:-Pennies From Heaven DLA5792580 (2 sides) with Frances Langford, Louis Armstrong, Jimmy Dorsey orch.
 0105 Gems from George Whites Scandals (Bing sings "Thrill is gone"&"Life is Just A Bowl Of Cherries" Accom:-Young orc, T.Dorsey, Mills Bros, Boswell Sisters, Frank Munn.
 0116 St. Louis Blues (BX11433) with Duke Ellington orchestra.